

MONTANA BOARD OF HORSE RACING MEETING

4:00 P.M., May 13, 2009

Telephone Conference Call

APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

Al Carruthers	Chairman	Sue Austin	Board Member
Topper Tracy	Vice Chairman	John Ostlund	Board Member
Susan Egbert	Board Member	Mike Tatsey	Board Member
Carol Lambert	Board Member		
Ryan Sherman	Executive Secretary	Sherry Meador	Legal Counsel

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE: Ben Carlson, Rada Rogers, David Downes, Randy Laedeke Lou Wjochcieckowski

CALLED TO ORDER: Chairman Carruthers called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm

MINUTES: Member Tracy moved to approve the March 3, 2009 minutes. Member Tatsey seconded the motion. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS: Eric Spector, representing Montana Entertainment, submitted an application to the Board to run five days at Great Falls (July 18, 19, 24, 15, and 26). Montana State Fair had originally applied to run nine days in Great Falls in 2009. The Board asked Spector why ME is requesting fewer days. Spector responded that ME recognized having the track opening for training was a vital component to Montana racing, and ME couldn't afford to have the track open for training in addition to the full nine days of racing. It was noted that the Cascade County Commissioners would only commit to a short-term lease thus limiting ME's investment opportunities. Spector recognized that county commission was doing what it could and wanted to wait for everyone to get squared away for one year.

Member Egbert asked if Great Falls was upgrading site at all. Chairman Carruthers noted that Fair Manager has been very helpful. Spector told the board that he believed there was a renewed enthusiasm in having racing come back not just at fair but for a longer meet. Great Falls is helping to repair the backstretch, stalls and road system. ME's management team is working with Great Falls to get everything ready.

Chairman Carruthers commented that in the meeting with Diedrickson and the County Commissioners, the commissioners stated that they didn't want to run the meet themselves.

Member Tracy asked when would Great Falls and ME re-negotiate in the Fall. Sherman said prior to the November 1 application due date.

Member Austen moved to approve ME's request for dates. Member Egbert seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Member Austin moved to allow Montana State Fair's relinquishment of originally requested dates. Member Tatsey seconded. Motion passed.

Chairman Carruthers informed the board that the next board meeting would be during Great Falls meet. Sherman stated there would be two more board meetings this summer – at the Great Falls meet and at the Billings meet.

Chairman Carruthers opened the floor for public comment. Rada Rogers asked if there would be training in Billings. Ben Carlson said that they are working with Metro Park on a contract. He anticipated access dates would be ironed out shortly. However, there would be no training at the Billings track in the near future. Chairman Carruthers said he hoped Billings would open as soon as Great Falls closes.

Member Tracy asked about stakes races. Sherman informed the board that he sent information to several states' email lists. Carlson noted payments start June 15th. Sherman said Diderickson and Great Falls racing secretary are working on stakes races now.

David Downes, Gaming, Inc. stated that he was familiar with HB316 compliance and would be available to work with the new simulcast operator if needed.

Member Tracy moved to adjourn. Member Egbert seconded. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:27pm.

Signature

Date